

Clark, Dorothy

County History Learned From Preserved Documents

T. H. Tnb - Sta R. 2/4/68
By DOROTHY J. CLARK

After the death of Mrs. Franklin Sage, her house on South Center street stood empty for some time, and during that period vandals entered the house and threw large quantities of written material out onto the lawn.

It is supposed that most of this material was gathered by push cart and sold for waste paper and was consequently lost to history.

Mrs. Sage, who had been Jessica Cliver, was secretary to Colonel Wm. E. McLean, and later married him. As his widow she married Mr. Sage.

There is no doubt that those papers scattered about the lawn were historical documents from Col. McLean's files, and would have been good material for a story of his life and the many business affairs in which he was interested, among which was the old Wabash & Erie Canal.

There have been many instances of irreplaceable records and correspondence



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which might have been saved had they been called to the attention of the writer or others like her who value such materials. Instead, these papers and documents, like thousands of others about our town and county, were unthinkingly thrown away or burned.

One instance where a building was being razed here in town and one of the workmen found an old newspaper, resulted in a pioneer local family learning more about their ancestors.

The newspaper was a copy of the "Terre Haute Daily Express" dated Nov. 5, 1873, and was presented to D. F. Pfleging, Sr., who was much inter-

ested in reading about his grandparents, the Mr. and Mrs. Henry Pfleging who were celebrating their 55th wedding anniversary according to an article found in the old newspaper.

Their farm, mentioned in the article, was located at what is now Fifteenth and Locust, and the farmhouse was on the corner of Fifteenth and Elm Streets. The last lots made from this farm were sold to Dr. Iverson Bell some years ago at Sixteenth and Elm Streets.

A Remarkable Couple

Entitled "A Remarkable Couple Married 55 Years. Still Vigorous and Industrious," the 1873 newspaper article said: "In many respects the most remarkable couple in this section of the country are Mr. and Mrs. Henry Pfleging who reside on 14th St., near Beiglers Gardens. They have been married more than 54 years and are still so strong and full of vigor that they are able to perform and do regularly and cheerfully more manual labor than almost any pair of young people in the Wabash Valley.

"They were born in Hesse Cassle in 1797. They were married in their native country in 1818. They came to this country in 1831, crossing the ocean with five children in the same vessel and on the same trip that brought over a former townsman, George Habermeyer. They settled in Maryland where they made some money by buying a farm and selling it at an advance of 100 per cent on the cost.

Brought Back to Life

"In 1836 which, it will be remembered, was one of the hardest of hard times, Mr. and Mrs. Pfleging came from Maryland to this county and settled in a river bottom farm belonging to Dr. Blake and situated in Otter Creek township about 5 miles from town. Here they resided for several years. Several children were born to them and they prospered in all things save health. Chills and fevers tormented them. Their children were often sick. Mrs. Pfleging was taken suddenly ill and to all appearances died. The attendants pronounced her dead but her husband would not

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believe that life had departed. He worked over her senseless form for many hours and the old man says the happiest moment of his life was when he detected the first signs of re-

turning vitality.

"It is the custom of this venerable woman to arise in the morning at 5 o'clock. She milks the cows, builds fires, does the chores generally. At 6 o'clock she calls her household to breakfast. After the meal is over she helps him to the market with a portion of the bountiful produce of their extensive vegetable garden. Mr. Pfleging is known throughout the city. There are few more familiar faces than his. There are none that wear a more cheerful and contented expression. He and his good wife have fought the

battle of life thus far so bravely and so well that they may safely trust their future. In addition to the cultivation of an eight-acre vegetable garden, these smart old people make and sell every year to the oyster saloons and eating houses many hundreds of gallons of ketchup and picili. Most of these articles are consumed by those who take their oysters at the saloons and eating houses and are made by Mrs. Pfleging and brought to town by her jolly husband. In addition to their vast amount of work, these aged people read regularly a papers of prominent newspaper, and thus keep themselves informed of current events.

"About the only medicine they have ever taken is Moffets pills. Each of them has taken one of these daily for thirty years.

"It is very doubtful there can be found in this state another married pair whose history will compare with that of this energetic old couple. They have well earned the respect of their fellow citizens and their life presents not only a contrast to, but a rebuke to the listless and useless life so common to many in these later days."

The 1876 Terre Haute City

Directory lists Christian Pfleging, gardener, as residing at the southeast corner of Locust and 15th, the present location of Herz or Rose Park which comprises 5.18 acres. I would imagine many of the deeds of land owners in the area around the park would show the former ownership of the Pfleging family, who came to Vigo County in 1836 and moved into town after the Civil War, over a hundred years ago.

23 Vigo County Villages Listed In 1884 Directory

By DOROTHY J. CLARK TS JUN 24 1973

There were twenty-three villages in Vigo County some 89 years ago, according to the VIGO COUNTY GAZETTEER & BUSINESS DIRECTORY of 1884.

Atherton, a village and postoffice in Otter Creek township, nine miles north of Terre Haute on the C. & E. I. Railroad, was described as "finely located in a good farming country, has a Methodist church and a public school." Isaiah Harworth, postmaster, handled the daily mail at his general store. Dr. Albert W. Kilgore, and blacksmith Wm. L. Hess also served the community.

Bloomtown, as the village was locally known, or Nelson, had been moved to Cusick Station in Sugar Creek township, six miles west of Terre Haute on the Vandalia line. Postmaster Joseph Cusick took care of the daily mail. Other village residents were George W. Connor, painter; Franklin Crockett, constable; Joseph A. Crowley, physician and druggist; Hugh M. Morrow, lumber dealer; and John M. Poindexter, physician.

The village and postoffice of Burnett was (and is) situated in Otter Creek township, one-half mile south of Grant Station on the I. & St. L. Railroad, and nine miles northeast of Terre Haute. It had a population of fifty in 1884. Seth B. Melton was the postmaster, physician, and a partner in Melton & Humphreys, General Store at Grant Station. Others listed included blacksmith Isaac Boardman; carpenter Joseph Bushnell; Smith Compton, shingle manufacturer; Creal Bros., millers; Joseph A. Creal, grocer; W. L. Creal, carpenter; Joseph Joseph, lumber dealer; William Kelley, justice of peace; W. A. Kendrick, carpenter; Charles Monroe, cheese manufacturer; Tillman A. Payne, coal dealer; shoemaker Willis Roberts; blacksmith William Simpson; and P. B. Tyler, justice of peace.



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Beckwith, physician; Bledsoe & Son, saw & grist mill dealers; William P. Bowman, blacksmith; Joseph Chatman, JP; Jas. L. Dunn, wagon maker; Charles C. Givens, physician; Jesse H. Harrold, blacksmith; Jacob Hunt, carpenter; Thos. W. Kennedy, physician; John W. McCammon, constable; Aaron Moon, stock dealer; John Osborn, shoe maker; Robert J. Payne, undertaker; Speedy Payne,

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carpenter; Wm. T. Payne, wagon maker; Geo. W. Peters, constable; Levi Reynolds, blacksmith; Prestley Sells, shoe maker; Jos. K. Smock, drugs and groceries; Chas. G. Stock, carpenter; Louis R. Stock, physician; Jos. P. Stock, JP; and Newton J. Woods, carpenter. Criss Bros. and Munson Gosnell ran the saloons.

Coal Bluff in 1884 was a thriving mining town on the I. & St. L. Railroad in Nevins township, sixteen miles northeast of Terre Haute. Coal was extensively mined in the area and the principal export. The town contained good churches and schools, had a population of 350, and several stores all doing a good business. Postmaster Thomas Powell sorted the daily mail at his general store. Edward Davis also had a store. H. P. Davis ran the sawmill. Silas Jessup was a carpenter. J. H. Martin and Jesse M. Peterson ran the saloons.

Edwards, or Ellsworth Station as it was generally known, was a village in Otter Creek township on the T.H. & L. and L. & E.I. railroad, five miles north of Terre Haute. It had a large flour mill, paper mill and cooper shops. Postmaster Thomas W. Stewart distributed daily mail at the McKeen Bros. & Sewart Mill. Frank B. Balding was a carpenter; Jas. Balding was the township assessor; Geo. W. Clipper and Mrs. J. T. Laughead were the cooper shop owners; Aaron Pence and Henry B. Russell were blacksmiths; Drusilla Price, carpet weaver; and Samuel Watkins, physician.

Farmersburg was in Sullivan county on the E. & T.H. railroad, sixteen miles south of Terre Haute. Only those persons living in Vigo county but getting their mail at Farmersburg were listed: They were Temple Shaw, JP; Warner Shepperd and Josiah Shumaker, blacksmiths.

Fontanet, a post office and village of about 200 inhabitants, was located in Nevins township on the I. & St. L. railroad, thirteen miles northeast of town. Coal and lumber were the principal exports. Postmaster Chauncey M. Stetson handed out the daily mail at his general store. Stratton Hollingsworth also had a general store.

John Casey, Jas. Kineman, J. S. McGraham were carpenters; Samuel C. Dalton ran the saloon; James Garrison was a shoe maker; Theophilus Holloway, Henry King and B. W. F. Witty were physicians; Nicholas F. Harpold, Wm. Lawson and Andrew Rhoads were blacksmiths; Wm. Hermerling, constable; Jas. W. Hurst, JP; Reason Lambert made cigars; and M. C. Rankin ran the sawmill.

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Hartford, later called Pimento, was located on the E. & T.H. railroad in Linton township, twelve miles south of Terre Haute. In 1884 it had 150 people, a grade school, two churches and a number of good business houses. Wheat, corn, hay and staves were shipped from here in large quantities. Wm. French, postmaster, handled the mail at his general store. Pleasant Bledsoe, John P. Endres, Harvey Pounds and Encevius L. Wilkinson were the blacksmiths. David Boyll was a tilemaker. Physicians were: Wm. O. Collins, James B. Dalton, Chas. T. Hull, Wm. S. Heady, Asbury D. McJohnston, Claude Stout and Daniel H. Welch. Theo. Halberstadt ran the hotel. Isaac Hippel was the carpenter. Millers were Kester Bros. and James Vandyke. Andrew Whetsel was the harnessmaker; Frank J. Sharp, wagon maker; and John A. McGee ran the saloon.

Heckland, in Otter Creek township, was on the Logansport division of the Vandalia railroad, just over ten miles northeast of Terre Haute with a daily mail distributed by Postmaster Theo. Curtis, who was also the dairyman. Simon Keys sold groceries and liquor. Isaac Jackson was the blacksmith and Jas. A. Kersey, carpenter.

The village of Libertyville, also a post office, in Fayette township, was thirteen miles northeast of Terre Haute and five miles north of Sandford on the I. & St. L. railroad. It had a district school and two churches in 1884 surrounded by fertile farming country. Peter Wilhoit was the postmaster; Geo. Landis, blacksmith.

Next week will continue the account of villages in Vigo county in 1884.

More About the Villages In Vigo County in 1884

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TS JUL 1 1973 By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Lockport as the station was known, or the village of Riley, was nine miles southeast of Terre Haute in Riley township on the T.H. & S.E. railroad. It had a population of about 600 in 1884 and was the largest town in Vigo county outside Terre Haute. A fine agricultural region, it exported grain and stock. The village contained a good church and a graded school.

Postmaster Justin P. Fowler distributed the daily mail at his general store. Other stores included Brill & Kester, Collins & Hickson, Henry Z. Donham, Newton Farlow, Geo. J. Fox, Ellis J. Gellespie, Matthew Murle, Louis Nattkemper, and Joshua W. Rumbley. Willey J. Allen and Henry Nattkemper ran the saloons. Frederick Asperger was a painter, while Geo. Asperger ran a harness store. George Baker, L. O. Sheets, Geo. E. Smith, Riley Welch and Stephen Whittaker were blacksmiths. Carpenters were Noah D. Brill, Daniel A. Chapman, Johnson Dildine, James Gordon, Joseph Hostler, Charles Leroy, Robert McCrosky, Aaron McMaster, Christine E. Myers, Wm. Sterling, Wm. Vice, John Weaver and Henry Welch. John Fox was the local undertaker. He also ran the saloon and a notions store. Isaac Myers had a planing and meal mill and lumber yard. Francis Larrison and Charles Propst were washing machine agents. Elijah Staggs, JP, also ran the hotel and livery stable. Edwin R. and John W. Wythe were nurserymen.

Macksville, now known as West Terre Haute, in Sugar Creek township, was on the Vandalia railroad and on the National Road in 1884, one and a half miles west of Terre Haute. It had a population of 400 people. Lumber, coal and grain were shipped out in great quantities. There was a district school and good churches.

Richard McIlroy kept the postoffice at his general store. Other grocers were Charles Fry, Josiah Hodges, Robert B. Ratcliffe and Jas. T. Ricketts. Tillman Alcorn, David H. All, John R. Dow, David Henry, Franklin Mayhew and Newton J. Ritter were blacksmiths. Daniel W. Bayless and John Snack ran the saloons. Frederick W. Ulrich was a cigar manufacturer. Dr. John S. Hunt was the only physician listed.

Middletown's post office was called Prairie Creek. This village was located in Prairie Creek township, fifteen miles southwest of Terre Haute, with a population of about 250 in 1884. There was a tri-weekly stage line between Prairie Creek and Terre Haute with the daily mail handled by J. Clement Harper, postmaster. He ran the general store, as did Piety & Trueblood, and James F. Yeager. Wm. F. Yeager was the justice of the peace. Jonathan J. Burge was the cabinet maker; carpenters



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included John W. Devold, John W. Moore, Geo. James and John Rice; Albert and Simeon Elliott were the blacksmiths. James W. Nebergaul, John W. Talbott and Marcus H. Thompson were physicians. Constables were Anselm W. Shoemaker and Chartley B. Morgan.

New Goshen in Fayette township, three miles northwest of Terre Haute, had 300

inhabitants. Sandford, seven miles southwest on the I. & St. L. railroad, was the shipping point. In addition to its mercantile and manufacturing businesses, it had two churches and a district school and a town hall. The tri-weekly mail was in charge of Postmaster Green Bowen at his general store. John W. Minnich also ran a general store. Stephen M. Bennett, John H. Morgan and Andrew J. Pinson were the physicians. John and Wm. Hansell, John A. Martin and Geo. S. Minnick were the carpenters. Jacob Rusmisel, Wm. G. Smith and Geo. Wright were blacksmiths. Wm. Whitlock was a plasterer; James Morrow, harnessmaker; and David Layman, shoemaker.

Prairieton, a village of about 300 in 1884, was in Prairieton township, seven miles southwest of Terre Haute. It contained two churches, a grade school, and was in tri-weekly communication with Terre Haute and Middletown by mail on the stage line. Lawrence S. Ball was the postmaster at his general store. Other general

stores were run by Albert B. Ferguson, Hurst & Whitlock, Herman H. Infange and Thomas L. Jones. Physicians were Lewis E. Carson, Thomas G. Drake, James S. Leachman and Jacob W. Ogle. Amos W. Laycock ran the

Prairieton Hotel. Woodford D. Malone was the photographer. Mary A. Wright, a weaver.

St. Marys with a population of about 150 in 1884 was located four miles northwest of Terre Haute in Sugar Creek township. It had a Catholic church and was famous for being the seat of St. Mary-of-the-Woods conducted by the Sisters of Providence. Postmaster Francis M. Curley distributed the daily mail at his general store. Also listed were Charles Brado, painter; Benjamin F. Brown, stock dealer; Michael Concannon, shoemaker; Ignatius Dayle & Ross Theobald, carpenters; John Delahaye, proprietor Visitors' Home; Mary J. Hagan, dressmaker; Henry J. Salughter, blacksmith; John O. Sullivan, constable; John L. Thralls, cooper; and Thomas J. Ward Sr., nurseryman and fruit grower.

Sandford was situated on the I. & St. L. railroad in Fayette township, nine miles northwest of Terre Haute and in 1884 had a population of 300 inhabitants. In addition to the Methodist church and the district school, there were a number of good stores, flour mill and stave factory. The daily mail was in charge of James B. Shickel, postmaster, who also was a partner in Shickel & Johnson, Drugs & Groceries. Armilda Wolfe ran

a general store and Josiah W. Wolf was a lawyer. The saw mill was run by Vermillion, Long & Duck. There were four physicians: Richard Belt, John A. Bright, Theodore F. Brown and John H. Swap. James H. Brown and Frederick Cooper were

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shoemakers. Howard T. Carson was a tanner. Alexander French and Benjamin F. Kibler were millers; Wm. W. Fuqua, blacksmith; Alexander Slye, carpenter; and Isadore M. Mulvany, butcher.

Seelyeville, a village and postoffice in Lost Creek township on the Vandalia line, eight miles east of Terre Haute, had a population of 100 in 1884. Mrs. Anna M. Dickerson was the postmistress for the daily mail in the general store run by her husband, Henry C. Dickerson. Relious H. Modesitt also ran a store. Jas. McNulty ran a saloon. Moody Chamberlain ran the saw and grist mill. Geo. Champer, blacksmith; Moses Puckett, shoemaker; Mrs. Sarah F. Thomas, dressmaker; and McPherson, McDonald, John Loughner and Ehrlich and Co., coal operators, completed the list.

Soonover, was a postoffice in Pleson township, six miles southeast of Pimento, the nearest railroad station. Charles B. Jenkins was the postmaster at the general store of Albert D. Jenkins. Rebecca McIntosh and Wm. Vanhorn were broom-makers. The physician was Benjamin F. Graham.

Tecumseh, a postoffice and village located on the west bank of the Wabash river in Fayette township, was six miles north of Terre Haute. John A. Winters served as postmaster and shoemaker. Others listed were Albert Cobble, blacksmith; Ottmer Dreher, grape grower; John Spindle, basketmaker; and three grocers Joseph Scott, Geo. W. Keen and Wm. H. Otte.

Vigo was a newly-settled postoffice in Prairie Creek township in 1884. It was located about three miles northwest of Prairie Creek postoffice. Eli Crites was the postmaster and ran the general store in Section 28.

Youngstown is located in Honey Creek township, seven and a half miles due south of Terre Haute on the E. & T.H. railroad with about 100 population, graded school and three churches. Grain and stock were the principal exports. Daily mail was received by John W. McCoskey, postmaster. Others who received their mail there were blacksmiths Jesse M. Cornell and Wm. Eaton; Dr. Wm. Dobbs; W. H. Joslin, carpenter and contractor; John Kintz, shoemaker; S. St. Clair, tile-maker and W. H. Yeager, carpenter.

Three years later in 1887 three more villages had been added. Gilbert, postoffice in Harrison township, Section 32 at Fruit Ridge, Rose Gardens, received daily mail in charge of Edward Dusenberry, postmaster. Miller & Hunt owned Rose Gardens.

Glenn, postoffice in Lost Creek township at Glendale Station, junction of the Vandalia railroad and the National Road, five miles east of Terre Haute, received daily mail in charge of Egbert Curtis, postmaster and grocer.

Vedder, postoffice in Sugar Creek township at Malcolm Station on the Vandalia railroad four miles west of Terre Haute, was in the charge of Abram W. Sheets, postmaster, who distributed the daily mail.

The Vandalia Line advertised four express trains daily for Indianapolis and the east, three express trains daily for St. Louis and the west, and two express trains daily for Logansport and the northeast. Pullman Hotel and Sleeping Cars were available from Terre Haute to Louisville, Columbus, Cincinnati, Pittsburg, Philadelphia and New York without charge.

Vigo County Population

Was 45,656 in 1881

To OCT 26 1976

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

In the year 1881, the tenth census of the State of Indiana taken by the Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C., showed that Vigo County had a total population of 45,656 people.

These were pretty evenly divided between 23,332 males and 22,324 females. Native born residents totaled 40,867; foreign born, 4,789; and 44,155 were white, only 1,501 were colored, which included two Chinese and seven Indians with the Negro population.

In the counties surrounding Vigo County these comparisons could be made: Clay County had 25,853 citizens; Greene County had 22,996 with only one Indian; Sullivan County had 20,336; Vermillion County had 12,025; and Parke County had 19,460 with two Indians.

The total for the state in 1881 was 1,978,362 which included 33 Chinese, four Japanese, 233 Indians and Half-breeds.

To show growth stages, Terre Haute in 1850 had 3,572 people; in 1860, 8,594; in 1870, 16,103; and in 1880, 26,040. Terre Haute had grown to be the third largest city in the state. And this was 94 years ago!

In 1881, Benjamin F. Havens was the mayor. The city clerk was Eugene V. Debs, and his deputy was Alexander J. Mullen. Other city officials were Hugo Duenweg, treasurer; John H. Kidd, marshal; Patrick C. Mohan, deputy marshal; John F. O'Reilly, assessor; Joseph P. O'Reilly, deputy assessor; James M. Allen, city attorney; George H. Simpson, civil engineer; William T. Bers, street commissioner; Harry Russell, chief of police; William K. Burnett, chief of the fire department; Charles M. Hirzel, station house keeper; and Hamilton Elliott, market master. The City Hall stood on the northwest corner of 4th and Walnut.

Composed of twelve men, two from each Ward, the Common Council met the first and third Tuesday of each month. John F. Regan and Samule McKeen served from the First Ward; W. T. Beauchamp and George E. Farrington, Second Ward; Henry P. Polk and Edwin Ellis, Third Ward; Jesse H. Clutter and Joseph H. Briggs, Fourth Ward; Joseph Frisz and James Grace, Fifth Ward; and David Phillips and James McCutcheon, Sixth Ward.

The Post Office was located at 20-22 S. 6th St. in 1881. Joseph H. Jones was the postmaster; William F. Arnold, deputy postmaster; Godfrey Arn, money order and registry clerk; Henry J. Westfall and Philip Lahr, mailing clerks; Andrew Geyman, general delivery clerk; and George W. Miller, superintendent of letter carriers.

There were only seven mail carrier routes in the city then, and the men included Fred Tyler, No. 1; John Kupperheimer, No. 2; James P. Johnson, No. 3; Frank Sibley, No. 4; Frank M. Mills, No. 5; John R. Byers, No. 6; Louis Baganz, No. 7, and

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William S. McClain, auxiliary carrier.

Postage 94 years ago was two cents a letter if local, and three cents if mailed outside of town. Third class mail cost only one cent a pound.

In 1881, there were three city cemeteries: the Catholic Cemetery on the west side of 3rd St., north of 4th Ave. with P. J. Ryan, sexton; the Hebrew Cemetery, on the west side of 1st St., near the city limits (8th Ave. then); and Woodlawn Cemetery, on the west side of 3rd St., north of 4th Ave., with J. W. Haley, sexton.

There were four Baptist churches, four Catholic, one Christian, two Congregational, one Lutheran, seven Methodist Episcopal, one Presbyterian, one Protestant Episcopal, one Reformed, one United Brethren and one Universalist.

In 1881 there were two orphan asylums: City Asylum on the east side of North 3rd, next to the city limits, and St. Ann's Asylum (for girls) on the northeast corner of 13th and 5th Avenue.

In 1881 Terre Haute boasted five military companies. The Governor's Guard, organized Feb. 1878, met at the Armory, 309 Main. G. A. Schaal was the Captain.

The Hager Veterans, organized in 1879, met at the Beach Block Armory. John A. Bryan, captain.

The McKeen Cadets, organized in 1879, met at the Armory on the northwest corner of 6th and Main. Their captain was W. H. Rippetoe.

The Terre Haute Light Artillery met at the Armory on the southwest corner of 9th and Sycamore. William Druesike was their captain.

The Terre Haute Light Guards, organized April 10, 1877, met at Armory Hall on 6th St. between Main and Cherry. Their captain was Merrill N. Smith.

There were those who preferred to sing instead of march and carry a gun. Three musical societies of Terre Haute were the Oratorio Society, organized July 23, 1877, and meeting each Monday night at the Baptist

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Chapel on the northeast corner of 6th and Cherry Streets; the Caecilia Singing Society, which met the fourth Thursday of each month, and the Terre Haute Mannerchor which met every Tuesday and Friday evening at Turner Hall, 9th between Main and Ohio streets.

Secret societies of Terre Haute included eight Masonic lodges: six Odd Fellow lodges; four K. of P.; four Independent Order of Foresters; nine lodges of Ancient Order United Workmen; Circle of Orient; Universal Brotherhood; Druids; Knights of Golden Rule; Knights of Honor; Royal Arcanum; Improved Order of Red Men; I.O.B.B (does anyone know what this one is?); G.A.R.; Order of Chosen Friends; American Legion of Honor; Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, and the Royal Templars of Temperance.

Meeting in about ten meeting halls in the city were the Terre Haute Horticulture Society, Terre Haute Social Club, Occidental Literary Society, Knights of Father Matthew, Hibernian Benevolent Society, Ancient Order of Hibernians, and at least three more old-fashioned "Alcoholics Anonymous"; St. Joseph's Total Abstinence Society, Park Temperance Society and the Central Temperance Society.

When people were not going to meetings they could stay home and read one or more of the eleven newspapers printed here.

Vigo County

Mound builders left structures in

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Among those who have theorized and argued about the identity of the mysterious mound builders in America have been three American presidents and Noah Webster, the celebrated dictionary compiler.

If those people of so long ago could have foreseen how much excitement and controversy their mounds would arouse centuries later, maybe they would have left a time capsule filled with explanation.

Geographically, the mounds are found from Manitoba to Texas, from Ontario to the Everglades, and from the Appalachians to beyond the Mis-

sissippi River. Concentration is especially heavy along the Mississippi, in Iowa, southern Wisconsin, lower Michigan, the borders of Indiana and Illinois, and most of all, in Ohio.

Vigo County Mounds

The first of these mounds discovered in Vigo County were near old Fort Harrison and are mentioned in Pidgeon's history of the fort. The land was soon occupied by the early settlers, and the small mounds were soon plowed down and can only be seen now as gentle swells on the land surface. People pass over them, wholly unaware of their ever existing as artificial mounds. These were in the prairie just north of Terre Haute.

In Fayette Township and along the east line of the county are mounds, and many interesting remains have been found.

In size, these earthworks found in the United States, range from small, conical, burial mounds to huge effigies, such as the 1,330 foot-long Great Serpent Mound in Ohio and the Cahokia in Illinois, which is 1,000 by 725 feet wide and 100 feet high. They were believed to have a religious origin.

The first pioneers crossing the Appalachians found mounds every

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Historically Speaking

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By Dorothy Clark



where, but not until early settlers spread across Ohio, Indiana and Illinois did the general public hear of them. Pioneers were not scientists. They were emotional and imaginative, and here was something to get excited about.

Everyone seemed to have an idea as to the builders, and they filled newspapers with theories. Presidents Madison and Jefferson wrote extensively about them, and President William Henry Harrison, who had lived among the mounds in Ohio and Indiana, believed Aztecs were the builders and were driven out later.

Many Ideas Held

Less learned men argued for all sorts of ideas. Some believed the Chinese were the constructors; others that Phoenicians and Egyptians had once crossed the Atlantic and built them. The Welsh and Irish

were also held responsible, and inevitably, so were the Lost Ten Tribes of Israel.

As late as this century, a preacher insisted that the Creator himself had built the Great Serpent Mound, and that it was the site of the Garden of Eden.

Not until 1890 did scientists get involved and, in a long report by the Smithsonian Institute, suggest that the mound builders were not a vanished people but ancestors of Indians who occupied the territory when the white men first entered it. This is the accepted opinion today.

The mounds are not ancient, the oldest being erected less than 2,000 years ago, and some were built after Columbus came. It was also pointed out that civilizations have passed in historical times, and so perhaps has this part of Indian culture.

Lived in Villages

The mound builders were much farther advanced than their descendants. They were not nomads, but lived in villages. Many mounds were fortifications or foundations for houses.

They grew squash, melons, beans, tobacco and maize. Kernels or cobs of corn have been found in stone foundations of mounds. Their stone work was good, they made beautiful pottery, carved wood, made masks and engraved copper disks and had large

quantities of fresh-water pearls.

Obsidian from the Rockies has been found in mounds, indicating an extensive trade among tribes. Copper came from Lake Superior, marine products from the Gulf Coast. They hammered out copper axes and used meteoric iron in tools.

Why they quit building mounds and reverted to a barbarian existence is not known. Inter-tribal warfare may have forced some from their homes. Or maybe they lacked leadership and just got tired of the hard work. Even a common burial mound required weeks of toil, and years were spent on some of the large mounds. They didn't have the wheel or draft animals to do the heavy labor—only human muscles.

Clark, Dorothy

How surveyors divided lands

Valley

T.S JAN 17 1982

By DOROTHY CLARK
Tribune-Star Writer

Vigo County lands are divided according to the United States Rectangular Survey first used in the Northwest Territory. This plan was arranged by James Mansfield, surveyor-general of the territory, and adopted by Congress in 1802.

First, a north and south line is run through the tract to be surveyed. This line begins at some prominent or easily distinguished point, and is designated as a "Principal Meridian." Then the "Base Line" is run through the tract east and west, at right angles with the first line.

The first Principal Meridian west of Washington is the west boundary of Ohio, which was run north from the mouth of the Great Miami River. It is 80 degrees 51 feet longitude west from Greenwich. The second Principal Meridian, to which nearly all Indiana land surveys refer, runs north through the central part of the state. The Base Line intersects it in Orange County.

Lines are run north and south parallel to the Principal Meridian, and six miles apart, which divides the territory into long north and south strips, called ranges, which are numbered in order 1, 2, etc., east of the Meridian, also the same west of it. Across these are run lines six miles apart, parallel to the Base Line, cutting the territory into long east and west strips called towns, and these are numbered north and south from the Base Line.

By this "cross lining" the territory is divided into squares, six miles on a side. Each of these squares is a Congressional town. Such "Towns" sometimes, but often do not, correspond to the civil townships, which are known by popular names. The only designation of Congressional Towns is their Range and Town numbers.

In practice the surveyors did not run the range and town lines their whole length continuously. The magnetic needle points east of north in Indiana and its variation from north constantly changes. Running a line through primeval forests is beset with difficulties. No meas-

urements of such great length can be made exactly.

So the surveyors began on the Base Line six miles east of the intersection with the Principal Meridian, ran a range line six miles north, and then a "random" line west to the Principal Meridian to check their work. Then they ran back to their range line, marking section and quarter section corners as they went, and so laid out the next town north, etc.

But as they ran north, on account of the fact that all lines northward continually approach, every township was slightly narrower at the north than the south side. To prevent this growing error, a fresh start was taken, with distances of full six miles east and west, at a certain town line, and these were called "correction lines."

After the tract is surveyed into towns six miles square, the towns are divided into 36 tracts, called sections, each containing one square mile, or 640 acres, more or less.

The sections are run off very much as were the towns, using each town's east range line and south town line as bases. Commencing one mile west of the southeast corner of the town, the surveyor runs north a mile, then east a mile to the east range line and corrects back to the northwest corner of the section.

He sets a quarter post (or half mile post) on the west line of the section at 40 chains north of the starting point, and sets the quarter post on the north line of each section halfway between the northwest and the northeast section corners.

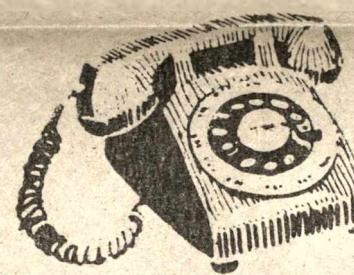
The surveyor proceeds to run off the remaining sections on the east tier, up to the north line of the town, placing the last section corner where his north-and-south line intersects that north town line, whether this point is east or west of the section corners previously established in the town survey. The distance between the corners, if any, is called the "jog" and is recorded.

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The government sub-division of the section (although they are not actually surveyed by the government surveyors) by which the lands are sold, are "quarter" sections of 160 acres, "half-quarter" sections of 80 acres, and "quarter-quarter" sections of 40 acres. If a section is perfectly square and contains the exact number of acres, its subdivisions would be tracts of equal areas, but it hardly ever occurs that a section is exactly square. Conse-

quently it almost always occurs that the subdivisions will differ more or less in quantity. The sections in Vigo County are described as number, town north, range west.

Because of unavoidable errors, no township will divide into 36 exact sections. The apparent excess or deficiency of land in the township is all run by the surveyor into the extreme north and west tiers of sections, which are called "exterior" or fractional sections.



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BETWEEN THE LINES

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY...

By Josie



Q. When we returned from a trip a few weeks ago, I noticed that Jessica Savitch was not on the news. She returned a few days later and thanked people for their help and comfort during her "great personal tragedy." What happened? F. Metcalf, Wolfeboro, N.H.

A. She lost her husband, Dr. Donald Payne, a Washington, D.C., gynecologist. The details of the story were sad indeed. It seems that Savitch had been in New York doing her weekend news duties and on her return to their Washington home on Sunday afternoon, she discovered that her husband had hanged himself in the basement of their house. She was grief-stricken and went into seclusion. Payne had been her physician before he became her husband, and the fact that she lost a baby in the early stages of pregnancy had driven them apart. But they were back together after a brief separation and were giving the marriage another try.

Q. I just saw Brad Dourif in the film "Ragtime" and I know I've seen him before. He plays a lot of disturbed characters, doesn't he? J. Craven, Arvin, Calif.

A. He sure does, from the dazed Billy Bibbitt in "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" to the Southern Baptist fanatic, Hazel Motes in "Wise Blood" to the very off-center Younger Brother in "Ragtime." This stereotyping has to do with Dourif's piercing blue eyes which add to his psychotic look, a fact he admits he's beginning to hate. "They cast me for my eyes," he says, "and it must be an asset. But all anyone wants me to do is play a nut. I'm sick to death of playing nuts." He insists that he is, after all, a pretty reasonable guy who was raised with all the good middle class stuff — golf games and country clubs and life in an affluent family in West Virginia.

Q. Richard Harris has been known as a womanizer — is that the reason for his divorce from Ann Turkel? A. Reed, Alsea, Ore.

A. His response is that they're getting divorced because they "can't keep their hands off each other." He claims their "overwhelming passions" overshadowed other concerns, notably Ann's career. She'll be more successful without him, he feels. And he approves of the man taking his place — record producer Richard Perry — they were all quite chummy backstage in New York at the opening of "Camelot." As for Harris' womanizing days, he explains that the best ones are behind him. "When I was younger," says Harris, "having a lot of ladies around theaters went to my head. There was a tendency to grab them and bring them backstage. Now that I'm older, I just settle for being gracious." All he does now, he insists, is sign a few autographs for them.



Q. I keep reading reports of Jackie Onassis and her court fights with a photographer. She is, after all, a public figure. Why shouldn't she be photographed? J. Cordonal, Marksille, La.

A. When it comes to Ron Galella, the photographer in question, the former First Lady seems to be tireless in her complaints. The latest one, following her court triumph a few years ago in which he was ordered to stay 25 feet away from her at all times, is that he's going overboard in "grunting and grinning." In an affidavit sworn November 4, 1981, she charges that Galella made "scary noises and grinned" as she and escort Maurice Tempelsman attended a Twyla Tharp dance performance on Broadway. So, to keep him serious and silent, Mrs. Onassis is suing for "coercive fines and imprisonment." The court fight, with Galella defended by "palimony" prince Marvin Mitchelson, is due to be decided at any moment.

Q. I've read that a lot of performers are refusing to perform in South Africa for political reasons. But I've heard that my favorite, Rod Stewart, is thinking of going. Is he? F. Otis, Sullivan, Ill.

A. At this point, yes, regardless of the views of his entertainment brethren and the stance of Mother England — decidedly anti-South Africa since its invasion of Angola. But Rod is one to make up his own mind, especially when the money is tempting. And \$2 million for a concert fee is pretty tempting.



Q. I finally saw Phyllis George on "The NFL Today" and I thought she was embarrassingly ignorant. At least Brent Musburger seems to know what he's talking about. She doesn't. What's she doing there? Rachel B., Prattville, Ala.

A. There has never been any doubt about it — the male-dominated audience likes to look at pretty girls. If they wanted authoritative talk, they could go to Frank Gifford. "People like to look at Phyllis," said the former head of CBS Sports, Van Gordon Sauter. "They like to tune in and see what she's wearing." And just in case viewers forgot to notice, they get some on-camera cues from her broadcasting cohorts, notably Tom Brookshier. "Gee, doesn't Phyllis look great today," he has been known to interject between scores. To which his fellow commentators are obliged to respond, "Yeah, she sure looks great today." So what if she often can't tell a running back from a quarterback, CBS still thinks Phyllis looks awfully good.

Cities die without new life

Ts MAR 10 1985

A local historian once said that history was "the sayings and doings and surroundings of individuals; their rivalries, and quarrels, and amusements, and witcisms, and sarcasms; their mechanical and professional pursuits; their erection of houses, and fulling mills and grist and saw mills ... their births and marriages and deaths; their removal to other localities, and how they prospered, and what descendants they left ..."

Morris Birkbeck describes how American pioneers settled the Midwest: "On any spot where a few settlers cluster together ... some enterprising proprietor finds in his section what he deems a good site for a town, he has it surveyed and laid out in lots which he sells or offers for sale by auction ... The new town then assumes the name of its founders: — a storekeeper builds a little framed store, and sends for a few cases of goods; and then a tavern starts up, which becomes the residence of a doctor and a lawyer, and the boarding-house of the storekeeper as well as the resort of the weary traveller; soon follows a blacksmith and other handicraftsmen in useful succession; a schoolmaster, who is also the minister of religion, becomes an important accession to this rising community ... where once the neighborhood ... was clad in buckskin, now the men appear at church in good blue cloth and the women in fine calicoes and straw bonnets."

Money flows in to the town from the surrounding farms and both prosper and they grow. Settlers retained old world customs and colonial ways of dealing with the frontier. They stayed in isolated groups of German, Scotch, English, Irish, French, Dutch, Swiss, Yankee or Southerner.

The names they gave their settlements, the houses they built, the way they farmed their land and raised their livestock, the schools and churches they built, even the way they laid out their graveyards showed their national origin.

The Hoosier of one locality was unlike the Hoosier in the next settlement. Only in the graveyard were they truly equals — one with no more or less courage, no stronger or weaker, richer or poorer than the other.

Clark, Dorothy + Terre Haute

Historically speaking



Clark is Vigo County's official historian and formerly worked for The Terre Haute Tribune.

By Dorothy Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

"In the United States a man builds a house in which to spend his old age, and he sells it before the roof is on; he plants a garden and leases it just as the trees are about to bear; he brings a field into cultivation and leaves other men to gather the crops; he embraces a profession and gives it up; he settles in a place, which he soon afterward leaves to carry his fickle longings elsewhere." Those words written by the French social critic Alexis de Tocqueville almost 150 years ago remain a fitting evocation of one of our most pronounced national traits: mobility. And its prime cause is financial opportunity!

Cities everywhere are but the lengthening shadows of the men and women who built them, but cities are dying and have been for years. An industry has been made out of government with local, state and federal office buildings in the decaying downtown.

Thousands of people make a reasonably good living working for city, county, state and federal governments in the shrinking city, passing the same tax dollar back and forth. Zoning boards, health care groups, advisory boards, committees, surveys, commissions, legal actions, welfare, grants, and area planning groups breed like rabbits.

In 1818 Caleb Arnold laid out a town near the mouth of Honey Creek on the Wabash River. He called the town Smyrna. He advertised it as the point at which the National Road would cross the river. Wrong! The founding fathers of Terre Haute already guessed it would cross there. If any lots in Smyrna were sold or buildings erected, they have disappeared

without a trace.

In 1819 four pioneers of Honey Creek township, Otis Jones, Henry French, Amos P. Balch and Jeremiah Raymond, filed a plat for a town they called Greenfield. Either the few buildings were moved or rotted away, because only Greenfield Bayou is still known.

In 1836 three towns, Brownsville, Hazel Green and Lockport, came into existence. Brownsville was platted by Johnson Clarke and was located about three miles southeast of the present town of Riley, Ind. A minor point during the construction of the Cross Cut Canal, nothing remains to show its location.

The village of Hazel Green was so close to Riley, then known as Lockport, that only Riley thrived because of the Wabash & Erie Canal.

A little above Fort Harrison on the west bank of the river, the little village of Harrison was located in 1837. Today there is nothing there to show it was ever inhabited.

The town of Urbana was laid out near the middle of Pierson township in 1838. It has disappeared completely.

In the same year the town of Winston was platted less than a mile east of Riley. It, too, was absorbed by the larger town where all the merchants and businesses were located.

The town of Sandford came into existence in 1854 when the Terre Haute & Alton Railroad was built. The location was an outlet for pig-iron from the old Indiana Furnace several miles north. It thrived as long as the bog-iron there held out.

By instinct, man is productive. He wants to make a product of some kind. But today's city dwellers don't make anything. They just survive by staying close to the public monies, using every contact and connection.

The city goes stale, as the red tape gets too complex, the forms get more complicated to fill out, the lawsuits too long-drawn, the coffee breaks get more frequent and the long lunch periods manage to shorten afternoon working hours.

Without new life, new industry, new business, new people, the city goes down a road their builders never imagined in their wildest dreams.

Vigo became county 170 years ago

18 JAN 17 1986

Clark, Dorothy

Historically speaking



Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

house of Truman Blackman near Fort Harrison.

These commissioners were Elihu Stout of Vincennes, John Allen of Daviess County, Charles Scott of Sullivan County, James O. Jones of Gibson County, and Marston G. Clark of Washington.

For some reason, Scott and Jones were absent on the date given, and the agreement was made between Stout, Allen and Clark as commissioners, and Cuthbert and Thomas Bullitt, Jonathan Lindley, Abraham Markle and Hyacinth Laselle, the town proprietors of Terre Haute, providing for the location of the county seat of the new Vigo County at Terre Haute.

In return for this, the proprietors bound themselves in the sum of \$30,000 to convey to John Hamilton, Isaac Lambert and Ezra Jones, county commissioners, 48 lots in the town as soon as a patent for the east fraction of Section 21, Range 9, Township 12, could be obtained from the government.

The town contained 268 lots,

exclusive of the public square, one at Fourth and Mulberry reserved for a school, and one at Fourth and Poplar reserved for a church.

Town limits extended from Eagle to Swan and from Water to Fifth. The additional blocks as laid out extended from the river to Fifth, between Swan and Oak, and it is this town that the earliest records at the courthouse refer.

Vigo County at this time was not as it is today. It extended as far as Brazil on the east. The eastern boundary ran six miles farther north than at present. The western boundary ran 23 miles farther north, while the south line was three miles farther north of the present line.

Appointed to serve as the first officers of Vigo County until an election could be held were Curtis Gilbert, clerk and recorder; Truman Blackman, sheriff; Alexander Barnes, coroner; Moses Hoggett and James Barnes, associate judges; and John Hamilton, Isaac Lambert and Ezra Jones, commissioners.

Lucius H. Scott was made agent of the county. His signature is found on the receipts for the bonds given the county by the proprietors.

The newly created county was named in honor of Col. Francis Vigo, staunch friend of the people in the Northwest Territory. He financed the campaign of Gen. George Rogers Clark against the British during the Revolutionary War.

An Italian born in Sardinia, Col. Vigo joined the Spanish army and went to Havana and later New

Orleans. Leaving army life he became a fur trader with the Indians along the Mississippi. He became known as "the Spanish Merchant."

Without his financial support, Gen. Clark would never have been able to beat the British forces and capture the Northwest Territory for the United States. From their efforts came the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin.

On July 4, 1832, the people of Vigo County extended a cordial invitation to Col. Vigo to visit here. At the advanced age of 92 years he gladly accepted and made his last visit to Terre Haute.

The entire community turned out to greet him at the huge reception and banquet complete with speechmaking and toasts. A parade through town afforded him a chance to see the courthouse without a bell in its tower. His will dated 1834 bequeathed \$500 to Vigo County to be used in buying a bell for the courthouse. He died in 1836, and was buried in Vincennes. Many years later the money owed to him since 1779 was paid by the federal government to his estate. According to his wishes, the bell was purchased and now hangs in the tower of a newer courthouse.

Called by some historians the "Liberty Bell of Indiana," the Vigo bell chimes the hours and reminds us of the debt we owe to Francis Vigo in America's fight for freedom in the great Northwest Territory during the Revolutionary War.

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Old records show earliest settlers and their location in Vigo County

TS NOV 13 1988

Clark, Dorothy

Historically speaking



Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

here in 1816 still had a number of descendants living on the land that was taken up on June 3 of that year, the earliest possible date for any land entry in Vigo County. These entries were made in that portion of Knox County which became Sullivan County the following year, and then Vigo County in 1818.

The Markles and the Stringhams didn't sign the original book either. Joseph Richardson came to Terre Haute in 1816, but later moved to York on the Wabash River in Crawford County, Ill. Generations of this family were eligible to join the Old Settlers.

The families of Maj. Bond and Samuel Merry were not represented although they are still here.

J.O. Wedding, a signer, was a son of Judge Randolph Wedding who was here before the county was formed. His second wife, Jane Stringham, lies in an unmarked grave in Woodlawn Cemetery. She

In 1828 less than half of Indiana was settled by white men. The Indians still held possession of the greater part of the land.

Indianapolis, the capital, was a country village and sparsely inhabited except when the Legislature met.

The entire state tax for Vigo County in 1828 was \$936.97 of which \$318.75 was for poll tax. A delinquent tax of \$55.58 was carried over from 1827. Part of this, a tax on 38 polls, was \$12.37½. With a small tax it would seem that nearly everyone paid his share.

Those paying poll tax only in 1828 in Vigo County were Ransom Miller, Daniel Midaw, George Malcolm Jr., Joseph McDaniel, Thomas Meeks, Benjamin McKeen, John Montgomery, William Miller, Thomas R. Moore, Ezeriah Mitchell, William N. Noel, Absalom Nevans, Anthony M. Ostrander, Richard S. Pointer and Thomas Peters.

In July 1875, an Old Settlers Association was formed at Dowling Hall on North Sixth Street. About 200 members signed the original membership roll. The association was not very active, however, for there are records on only six meetings.

Membership was limited to those who had lived in Vigo County or neighboring counties in the Wabash Valley. To qualify they must have lived in the county before 1850. Many descendants of the earliest pioneers were not interested in joining the association even though they were eligible.

The Redford family who came

was the real daughter of a soldier in the American Revolution.

On the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the first party of Vigo County landowners, a meeting was conducted June 12, 1866, in the home of Randolph Wedding at what is now 25th Street and Wabash Avenue, where K mart is located.

Jacob and Peter Lane, Canadian volunteers, entered land on June 3, 1816, through Maj. Markle. This was the southern half of Section 35 in Harrison Township and the north half of Section 2 in Riley Township. Some of the Redford family lived on this land for well over a century.

Maj. Markle entered for himself on the same date the half section which was later occupied by his mill and the original frame house on the east side of the road, and the brick house erected in 1848 which still stands across the road west.

After continuous use and occupancy for 136 years, the last parcel of this half section passed out of the Markle family's possession.

The Adams family settled a large part of southern Parke County where the Adams Cemetery is located.

The Balding family were early settlers in Otter Creek Township. Aaron Ball was the father of Dr. E.V. Ball. The Barbour family were prominent educators, politicians and landowners in Fayette Township and have many descendants.

In southwest Vigo County, Wiley Black was one of the founders of

the Black settlement and many of the same name continued to hold the land. The Blocksom home was south of the city near Honey Creek. George G. Boord was an early merchant here.

The Brotherton family lived north of town. The Budd family lived near Hull Cemetery. Eleazar Carter was a Canadian volunteer and an early settler here.

Jabez Casto was an early settler in Sugar Creek Township. E.W. Chadwick came to Sugar Creek before 1870 and helped in opening the cut west of West Terre Haute. From stone that was quarried there, he built a house on the old Paris Road in that township. Much of the stone work on many buildings in early Terre Haute came from his stone yard, the Terre Haute Stone Co., which went out of business at his death.

The Church family were early residents of West Terre Haute and Sugar Creek Township. Elizabeth Coltrin was a member of the early family whose homestead was at the southeast corner of the intersection of Fort Harrison Road and the Lost Creek Mine.

The Crust farm was east of Seventh Street and south of College Avenue. The house of Judge Deming, built in 1847, was demolished for the erection of the present YMCA building.

Old families with descendants still here include Gilbert, Grimes, Hebb, Jackson, High, Vermillion and Yeager. Also, the Denny, Dickerson, Durham, Evans, Fagin and Ferguson families. There are too many to list them all.

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